

FACTSHEET

EQUALITY AND FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION FOR ROMA

EQUIROM



Roma and Travellers



Roma and Travellers



THE NEED TO ADDRESS ANTIGYPSYISM

Despite progress made in particular areas, many Roma continue to face inequality, prejudice and discrimination and serious obstacles in fully enjoying their human rights. Their access to essential services such as health care, housing, education and employment is often hampered by underlying deeply rooted antigypsyism. These problems are aggravated by their often very negative portrayal in the media and their underrepresentation in public and political life and decision-making processes. Roma women face particularly high barriers to equality and participation due to the intersectionality of multiple discrimination, gender bias and stereotypes.

ABOUT EQUIROM

The joint programme “Equality and freedom from discrimination for Roma” (EQUIROM) aims to fight and prevent antigypsyism and discrimination and promote equality for Roma people. It will be implemented in implemented in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Romania, in the period December 2022-December 2024.



Complementarity with relevant policy frameworks and international human rights standards

The support provided under the Joint Project is inspired and driven by European standards and policy frameworks, such as EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation for 2020-2030, EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025 and the Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion 2020 – 2025

The project builds upon the European Court for Human Rights relevant case-law and on the findings and recommendation of monitoring bodies, such as the European Committee for Social Rights, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities.

“The explicit publication in certain media of clearly racist content, the praise of Nazism and the denial of the Holocaust, the use of offensive language and stereotypes in connection with particular minorities and the making of derogatory comments about persons belonging to them on the streets, in schools and in shops, as well as actual calls for the use of violence against them and certain campaigns against the use of minority languages”.

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI),
General Policy Recommendation No. 15
on Combating Hate Speech



OBJECTIVES



1

To combat stereotypes in the media, raise awareness about the history and culture of Roma and other ethnic minorities, including about the Roma Holocaust, and contribute to building positive narratives about Roma by journalists and other media representatives

2

To foster closer co-operation and mutual understanding between Roma and pro-Roma civil society, Roma communities and individuals, journalists and other media representatives

3

To empower Roma people – in particular Roma women and young people- to be or to become front-runners in the fight against antigypsyism and gender stereotypes

Through the proposed actions, EQUIROM aims to:

Increase the capacity of media and journalists on antigypsyism and discrimination against Roma and other ethnic minorities

Establish or improve cooperation between journalists, media representatives and representatives of public authorities with Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations and representatives of Roma communities to raise awareness on how Roma are being portrayed by the media and to exchange good practices on combating stereotypes and the biased portrayal in and by the media.

Raise awareness of public through broad communication campaign on antigypsyism and anti-Roma discrimination

EQUIROM

Activities

Work with the media and regulatory authorities

- Train national and local media representatives on combating antigypsyism
- Conduct research studies on the representation and portrayal of Roma in broadcasting and on how Roma are portrayed by the media
- Engage with the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities and strengthen the regulatory authorities' capacities by organising roundtable interactive exchanges, panel discussions and teach-in sessions on antigypsyism and anti-Roma discrimination
- Build capacity of teaching staff to pilot a syllabus on anti-Roma discrimination and gender equality in journalism schools or universities in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania
- Organise an Award/Prize for journalists for promoting a positive image of Roma, in particular of Roma women and young people, in online media

Work with Roma and pro-Roma civil society

- Develop and implement a series of seminars and workshops on racial and ethnic stereotypes, bringing together journalists, media representatives and representatives of public authorities with Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations and representatives of Roma communities, with the aim of working together to combat stereotypes and the biased portrayal in and by the media, including on social media platforms.
- Establish partnerships with Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations for the development and implementation of a broad communication campaign to fight antigypsyism and anti-Roma discrimination
- Work with Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations, Roma women activists and Roma youth activists to strengthen their skills of campaign design
- Organise a webinar on Roma history teaching as a method to respond to and prevent antigypsyism, in partnership with the Council of Europe Observatory on History Teaching in Europe.

